NWS FORM E-5 (11-88) (PRES. BY WSOM E-41)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA) **WFO Jackson, Mississippi**
MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS		REPORT FOR: MONTH: **March** YEAR: **2002**
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283		SIGNATURE **Jim Stefkovich, MIC** **In Charge of HSA** DATE **March 11th , 2002**

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (WSOM E-41)

The month of March was characterized by rain events every 4 to 6 days over the entire HSA. The month started off with the passage of a cold front. Rainfall amounts were less than ½ inch. Another cold front pushed through the state on the 9th and 10th; rainfall amounts were 3/4 of inch or less. On the 11th and 12th, a strong upper low pressure with an associated surface front moved through the area. Rainfall amounts ranged from 1 1/2 to 2 1/4 inches. A slow moving cold front on the 16th and 17th produced heavy rain over southeast AR, portions of Northeast LA, and northern sections of the HSA. Rainfall amounts were around 1 ½ inches over these areas. Over central and southern sections of the HSA, rainfall amounts were less than ½ inch. Another closed upper lower pressure area and associated cold front moved through the area on the 20th and 21st, precipitation amounts ranged from 3/4 to 1 3/4 inches. Rainfall associated with yet another cold front on the 25th and 26th brought rainfall amounts ranging from 1/4 inch to around 1 ½ inches to most areas.

The most significant event occurred over the closing days of the month. A closed upper air low pressure system pushed out of Texas on the 29th into the 30th. Flash flood watches were issued over southeast AR, portions of northeast LA, and the northern counties in Mississippi. Rainfall amounts in these areas ranged from 1 3/4 inches over northeast LA and southeast AR to around 4 inches in some Mississippi counties. The highest storm totals for this rainfall event were at Grenada, MS (4.70 inches), Bovina, MS (3.45 inches), Stoneville, MS (3.10 inches), Cleveland, MS (3.01 inches), Bastrop, LA (2.93 inches) and Eudora, AR (2.90 inches). The system weakened as the low pressure area and its associated surface cold front progressed to the east and south. Rainfall amounts in central, south, and southeast Mississippi were 1 ½ inches or less.

Much above normal rainfall in March allowed the soil moisture over extreme northeast LA, southeast AR, north MS to remain well above normal. Soil moisture over the Big Black river and the upper Pearl River were well above normal. Soil conditions were near normal over most of southern MS with exception of southeast portions where below normal soil conditions were noted. The Yalobusha river at Whaley finally went below flood stage for the first time in over 3 months; however, heavy rainfall caused the river to rise above flood stage several times during the month. See the e-3 Flood Stage Report for river flooding.

RIVER BASIN	*RAINFALL*	*DEPARTURE FROM NORMS*
Southeast Arkansas (Chicot & Ashley counties)	*8.50 to 9.50 inches*	*Well above normal*
northeast Louisiana (Tensas, Boeuf, Bayou Macon & Lower Ouachita)	*9.00 to 10.00 inches extreme northeast LA* *3.50 to 6.00 inches elsewhere*	*Much above normal over extreme northern sections. Much below over central sections and a portion of southern sections.*
Lower Yazoo	*7.00 to 12.00 inches*	*Much above over northern sections to just above in extreme southern sections.*
Big Black	*5.00 to 9.00 inches*	*Much above normal over the upper basin to just below normal over the lower basin.*
Homochitto/ Bayou Pierre	*5.00 to 6.50 inches*	*Normal to just above normal over Bayou Pierre to near normal over the Homochitto.*
Pearl(abv Jackson)	*4.00 to 7.00 inches*	*Normal to just below normal over the upper basin to above normal over the central basin and near normal around Ross Barnett Reservoir*
Pearl(Blo Jackson)	*4.50 to 6.50 inches*	*Northern sections of basin were much below normal to normal. Above normal condition prevailed over southern sections.*
Pascagoula	*4.50 to 6.75 inches*	*Much below normal over most sections except over the upper leaf river basin where above normal rainfall was observed.*

The heaviest rainfall amounts in the HSA for the month were 11.70 inches at Grenada, MS; 9.93 inches at Bastrop, LA; 9.41 inches at Cleveland, MS; 9.26 inches at Portland, AR; 9.18 inches at Oak Grove, LA; 8.96 inches at Winona, MS;

Here at the WFO Jackson, the March monthly rainfall was 7.29 inches, which was 1.55 inches above normal. We have had 15.94 inches thus far this year which is .03 inches above normal.

The Mississippi River was well below seasonal norms during the first 3 weeks of the month from Arkansas City, AR to Natchez, MS. By months end, the river was well above seasonal norms from Arkansas City to Natchez. The provisional high and low stages for February are listed below:

Location	High Stage(ft)	Date	Low Stage(ft)	Date
Arkansas City, AR	33.85	03/31	10.44	03/01
Greenville, MS	45.32	03/31	22.25	03/01
Vicksburg, MS	39.10	03/31	17.50	03/01
Natchez,MS	45.95	03/31	25.42	03/12

Total Flood Warning products issued: 13
Total Flood Statement products issued: 98
Daily Rainfall Products (RRA'S) issued 31
Daily River Forecast Products (RVS'S) issued 31
Daily River Stage products (RVA'S) issued 31

Marty V. Pope
Service Hydrologist

Note: Stage and precipitation data was furnished with cooperation from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas N.W.S. Cooperative Observers, United States Geological Survey, United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District.

cc: USGS Little Rock District
USGS Ruston District
USCE Mobile District
USCE Vicksburg District
USCE Mississippi Valley Division
USGS Mississippi District
SRH Climate, Weather and Water Division
LMRFC
Pearl River Valley Water Supply District
Hydrologic Information Center
Southern Region Climate Center